

To: Examiner Kaj Olsen (Fax No. 571-2731344)
From: Abraham Ronai, Reg. No. 41,275 (212-908-6408)
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Re: Application Serial No. 09/176,124
Attorney Docket No. 10191/857

DRAFT AMENDMENT

1. (Currently Amended) A planar sensor element for determining at least one gas component, comprising:
 - a layer structure including:
 - a measuring cell layer;
 - a covering layer; and
 - a heating element disposed directly between the measuring cell layer and the covering layer and generating a heating power, a layer-shaped heating conductor being embedded in the heating element in a layer plane of the layer structure;
 - wherein the layer plane is at least approximately vertically centered with respect to the sensor element, the measuring cell layer, covering layer and layer plane extending in a horizontal direction; and
 - wherein the covering layer adjoins the heating element on a side of the heating element facing away from the measuring cell layer and does not form part of an oxygen pump cell or an oxygen concentration cell;
 - wherein the covering layer extends from the side of the heating element facing away from the measuring cell layer to an end face of the planar sensor element.

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